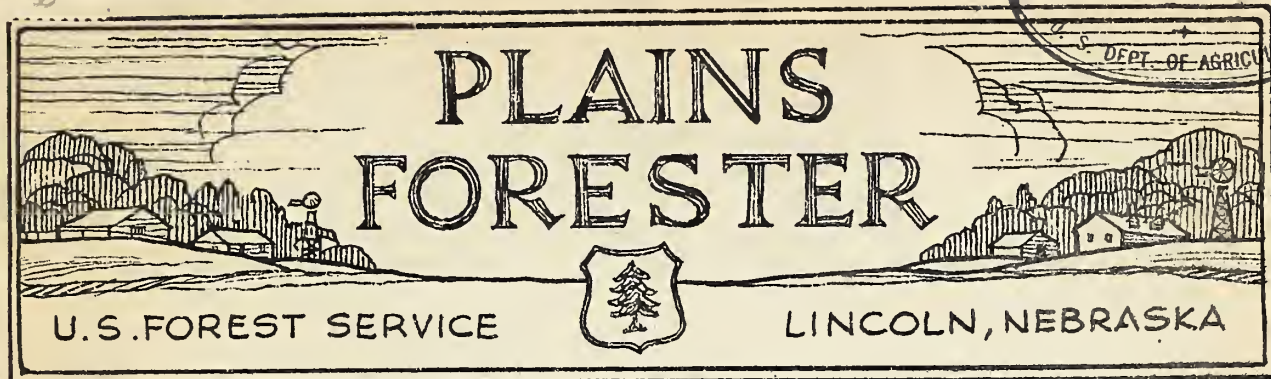


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Vol. 2, No. 3

March - 1937

### THE END RESULT

Since the beginning of the Shelterbelt Project we have emphasized the importance of good tree-planting technique as an essential factor in growing trees in the Plains States. Good technique has paid dividends. There is still an unlimited field for improvement; for the development of better methodology than we have yet put into effect. The development of improved practices is as much a part of the job as is the best obtainable application of present knowledge. We should continue to do the best possible job of tree planting, because in so doing we do our best to meet human needs, which is the ultimate objective.

We are not just planting trees on this project. We are making trees play their part in maintaining, improving, and perpetuating a great national heritage. We have a social responsibility which we must meet. There is no good reason to plant trees, to practice forestry, or to improve soil and farm management practices, unless the end result is the benefit of human beings.

The nearer we can come to an understanding of our fellow man, who often is the tenant farmer struggling for the bare necessities of life; the closer we can come to an appreciation of the circumstances under which he lives and works; the more we can bring to our work a sympathetic attitude of mind toward these people and their problems, the nearer we will approach a real relationship between people and trees and the more worth while will be our work.

- P.H.R.

## DO TEXANS WANT SHELTERBELTS?

Time was when this question was very much to the point. Unlike the Plains States to the north, shelterbelt planting had never been practiced in Texas and, in fact, the word itself is practically unknown there. The country is relatively new from an agricultural standpoint. It is not subject to the biting north winds that have been largely responsible for the development of tree protection in the north, and the idea of saving soil and crops by means of tree windbreaks had never been advanced. The accompanying sketch map of the 1937 concentration area in Wolf Valley in southwestern Hall County, however, is convincing evidence that Texas farmers are as alive to the possibilities in shelterbelt planting as those anywhere else. This is a sandy and sandy loam valley, several miles square in extent, and is entirely treeless either through some oversight on the part of Mother Nature or the practices of the Indians in the early days in burning off the vegetation. It is a good farming country, the chief drawback being the propensity of the land to blow, and the critical hot southwest winds which are apt to damage crops during any season.

When it was decided to carry on a planting program in Texas in 1937, it became the duty of the various Forest Service representatives to negotiate for the strip sites much more rapidly than was necessary last year, since the word "go" was received in the midst of the normal planting season. While no planting had heretofore been done in this valley, we had planted elsewhere in the county last year, and the negotiations task this year was made easier because of the relatively high survival of last year's plantings despite the extreme drought conditions which prevailed. Moreover, the trees made fair growth, and thus one of the major objections to the program was answered. The trees could certainly be established.

This territory was assigned to Frank J. (Jack) Burt, and he was instructed to learn whether the farmers there wanted the trees. We wanted to be sure of being able to get a considerable volume of strips quickly, before opening up a campaign in the valley, so Burt went to the little town of Turkey, located in the heart of the valley, and called on the local banker, the doctor, and other leading citizens in the community, explained the program to them, and asked their opinion regarding the prospect of being able to put it over in the valley.

This apparently was the right method of approach in this particular case. The townsmen were quite enthusiastic regarding the idea, and put Burt in touch with the farmers who could do the most for him. The result was that within ten days some 35 miles of strip had been inspected, signed up, and made ready for planting, which began at once. The farmers welcomed the program with open arms, offering to furnish everything necessary in the way of cultivation and other cooperation in order to have the belts planted on their farms.

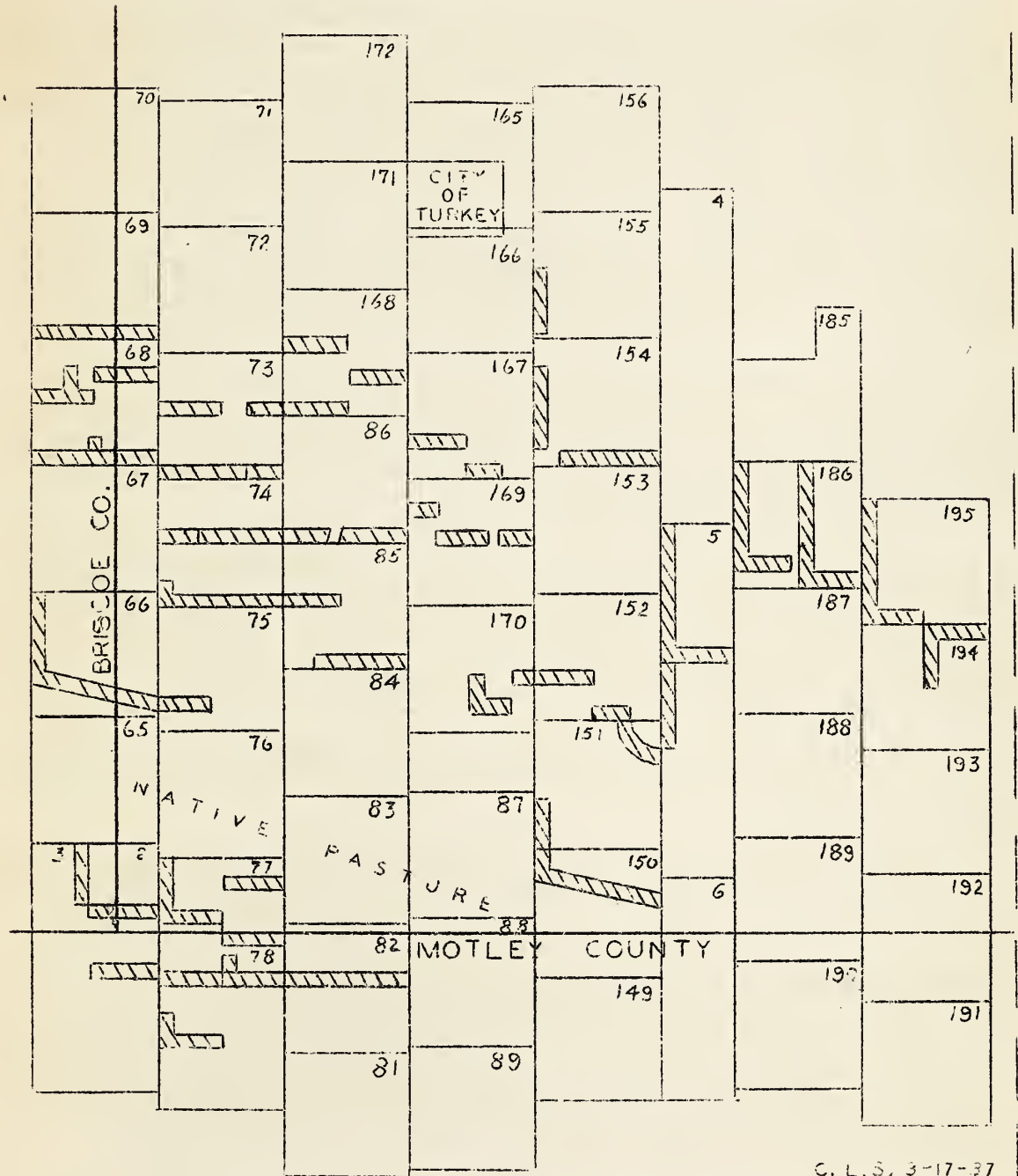
While it still does not have anything like the number of trees which it should have, this already good farming area should now have a start toward being better than ever, and certainly it will eventually be a more comfortable and beautiful place in which to live.

- Edgar H. Kemp

# 1937

## CONCENTRATION AREA

### HALL COUNTY, TEXAS.



C. L. S. 3-17-37

## RODENT CONTROL IN NEBRASKA

From the manner in which agreements are coming in, it seems very likely that we will wind up with a total of approximately sixty miles of plantings covered by cooperative rodent control agreements in Nebraska. Under the previous rodent control set-up, we were doing rodent control work on 130 miles out of a total of 172 miles of strips, so we are very pleased to find that approximately half of these men are interested enough in their plantings and realize the necessity of rodent control to such an extent that they are willing to take care of their own plantings.

In contacting strip owners to secure these agreements we met with a variety of comments such as "just don't have the time," "strip is too far from the house," "I will when the strip is replanted," etc., but as far as I am able to determine the reason that the trees do not need the protection was never given. On the other side of the story, we were told that "my farm was a nest of rabbits until you fellows started your work," "there aren't any rabbits left around here any more," "I found dead rabbits way over in the far pasture," and other comments of a similar nature. In some cases tenants voluntarily offered to take care of the strips, in other cases the landowner has assured us that he would make it part of his tenant's duties, and in one instance the strip owner made the statement that he intended to hire one of the former patrolmen to take care of his planting.

Under this cooperative method we are finding that it takes a great deal more grain to provide each strip owner with enough poisoned baits for his needs plus a surplus for future use, than it did to supply one patrolman with enough bait for four or five miles of plantings and enough surplus to take care of them in the future.

We are requiring the foremen, in addition to contacting the cooperator and furnishing him with poison, to actually inspect each individual planting as often as possible and of course to give all the assistance to the cooperator that he possibly can. Also, a record is being kept of each individual strip showing the date of each inspection, the amount of damage present, and the amount and date of each issue of poison bait.

We plan to send each cooperator a sheet of mimeographed instructions in placing the bait and also a short memorandum on simple and useful antidotes for strychnine.

From the interest that is being shown, I believe that this will prove as satisfactory and certainly a much more economical method of rodent control.

- Noble E. Buell

## LEGISLATURE MEMORIALIZES CONGRESS ON TREE PLANTING

On January 14 the North Dakota legislature passed a joint resolution urging Congress to provide authorization and funds for tree planting in that State. The program is advanced on the grounds both of providing unemployment relief and securing the benefits inherent in rural tree planting, and the resolution provides that the Federal Government "have full control of the growing and planting of said trees."

## TRAINING AND THE PLANTING JOB

During a recent trip through the three southern States, it was the privilege of the writer to observe twenty-two planting crews in action. The sight was, to say the least, exhilarating. With the exception of a very few of the planters who were new on the job and to whom our system of planting had not as yet become a habit, the crews were all planting uniformly and with a speed that spoke well for the training they had received.

The value of thorough training for any job is a generally accepted fact. In the planting job this spring, this value becomes an established fact in the results that are being obtained. In all three States, intensive training meetings were held at the beginning of the planting season. As a result the supervisory personnel know their job and, equally important, they know how to train the men under them.

The varying degrees of efficiency with which the individual crews are working, for the most part tie in directly with the quality of the training they have been given. This greater efficiency and resulting increase in speed, more than pays for the three or four days that it takes for a well-organized training course.

Perfection is still far ahead of us, but the progress made over last year's job is surely indicative of the importance of training.

The meat of all this discussion is in reality just this: To get every tree well planted, efficiently and rapidly, but in any case, well planted. If this is accomplished, survival by September of this year should be a different story. According to the records as printed in the February issue of this organ, 25% of the losses sustained last year were attributed to poor planting. This is one item that can be wiped off the slate by training.

- S.S.B.

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Last night I held a little hand,  
So dainty and so neat,  
I thought my heart would surely burst,  
So wildly did it beat.

No other hand e'er held so tight,  
Could greater gladness bring,  
Than that I held so close last night-  
Four aces and a king.

- California Ranger

## FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT COMPLIMENTS PROJECT

President O.O.Wolf of the Kansas Farm Bureau, commenting upon a photograph of the shelterbelt strip on the Russell A. Parker farm at Trousdale, Kansas, wrote:

"I feel that the photograph indicates a splendid showing has been made on this project. I was pleased and surprised at the growth that evidently has been made of the trees planted. I did not realize that they had made so much progress during the unfavorable weather conditions with which we have been faced since planting."

### SHELTERBELT AFFECTS PASTURE

J. E. Weaver and F. W. Albertson of the University of Nebraska, writing in Ecology upon the effects of the great drought on prairies, report a significant circumstance in connection with the Jamaica prairie south of Lincoln.

This is a small prairie bounded on the south by a wooded stream, and originally supported an excellent stand of blue-stem grasses. The original cover was practically killed out by the drought, and has been replaced by worthless or inferior species except that the portion "sheltered by the fringing woodland from the southwest winds was in nearly normal condition."

And yet some people still doubt whether shelterbelts can have any beneficial effect upon crops.

### THEY WILL GROW

Very interesting information was secured on an extensive inspection of shelterbelts in Montana, in company with Professor I. W. Cook. Source of stock included the Mandan Station of the B.P.I., commercial nurseries, and the Clarke-McNary Nursery at Missoula. All of the shelterbelt plantings observed had lived through a period since 1932, with an annual precipitation of less than 16 inches. Some have lived through years with less than six inches. One outstanding example was seen in Roosevelt County, where an extensive shelterbelt grown from Mandan stock showed a high survival after 20 years, even though the owner had been able to raise only three grain crops since 1908, the last in 1929. Losses are not wholly due to drought, since there has been defoliation in certain species by grasshoppers, and the severe October freeze of 1935 damaged the Chinese elm.

The principal factors in establishing and maintaining shelterbelts in Montana appear to be selection of the right species, source of seed, and care after planting.

- Quarterly Report, Region 1.

### SCOTCHMEN PAY FOR PLANTING

Forest planting is given the soundest possible backing in Scotland where H. M. Forestry Commission pays the landowner to make forest plantings. Conifer plantings at two pound sterling and hardwood plantings at two, three, and four pound sterling, depending on species used, are the prices paid. The planter gets 75% of his claim following inspection after planting and 25% four years later, provided the Commission is satisfied that the plantation has been properly established and maintained. Applications must be approved in advance of planting by the Commission whose approval is also necessary on the selection of species. In event of destruction within the four years, the plantation must be replanted or money refunded.

The far-sighted Scotch planters refused to concede the Government a share in any profits above 4% so that now the plantations are free of encumbrances after satisfactory maintenance for four years.

- Dixie Ranger

#### PROJECT INCREASES DEMAND FOR CLARKE-McNARY STOCK

"The Plains Shelterbelt Project will undoubtedly increase the demands for Section 4 planting stock in this State in the future. The project has demonstrated that trees will grow under adverse conditions if properly planted and given some care during the growing season. Better than 60% of the trees planted have survived in spite of the drouth of the past year. We are now receiving orders to fill gaps in some of the plantings and to establish similar plantings outside of the shelterbelt area."

- Glen R. Durrell, State Forester of Okla.  
in "Dixie Ranger"

#### SHELTERBELT INCREASES CROP PRODUCTION

J. L. Brannon of Elk City, Oklahoma, was in the office to sign an agreement for a shelterbelt. At that time we were locating very few strips on the north side of the field. Mr. Brannon wanted his trees on the north, and knowing his farm, I consented to make it a special case. I knew he had an exceptionally good belt of black locust on the south side of his farm and that the man on the north did not want trees on his land.

As a matter of interest I asked Mr. Brannon what he would take for the trees on the south side. He first said he would not sell them at all, but upon my insistence that everything has its value, opined that he might, but for not less than \$500. I asked then on what basis he figured the value. His reply was that his land was worth \$50 an acre without any protection, and that on at least ten acres adjacent to the trees he would produce twice as much as on any of the other land, or, in other words, the trees made him ten acres which were worth \$100 an acre and therefore they were worth \$500.

I also had Mr. V. H. Rowe come in to sign an agreement. He said, "I am just south of J. L. Brannon's place and I get considerable protection from his trees and I want my shelterbelt on the south side of my place." I told Mr. Rowe what Brannon said about his production and Rowe substantiated the statement, adding that the same was true for about five acres of his land to the south.

- James W. Kyle

#### CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN FORESTRY OFFERED

The University of Missouri has announced a correspondence course in "General Forestry" prepared by Professor Westvelt. It is described as a consideration of all phases of forestry including forest protection, silviculture, wood utilization, forest management, forest economics and forest policies. It is designed to furnish a background for specialized study of individual phases of forestry, and to those who are interested in forestry as a cultural subject to provide a broad knowledge of forestry as practiced in the United States. The subject is given for three semester hours' credit and includes 24 lessons and the final examination. The tuition fee is \$12, and in addition the student is required to purchase his textbooks and to pay postage both ways on his lessons. Application forms may be had from R. L. Davidson, Jr., Acting Director, University Extension Division, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

## SOME TRENDS IN PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

While in Washington during the past winter, I had the opportunity and pleasure of being assigned to the Division of Personnel Management. I was much interested to learn that there is a new, and a very definite, interest in the whole field of personnel administration and this interest seems to be on a sounder basis than ever before. There is, I think, a growing recognition that personnel management, on a sound basis, has a definite relation to the success of any organization, as well as to the interests of employees. In the Forest Service, we have been managing personnel for as long as the Service has been in existence, and I think it is fair to say that management, on the whole, has been successful. But this success probably is the result more of instinctive good management, than through any planned approach to the problem.

During the past year probably all of us have heard a good deal about career plans and career opportunities for Government employees. We shall hear considerably more about this subject from time to time, and it is generally predicted that before very long, provisions will be made in the Service to work out, with and for each appointed employee, a schedule or plan which will encourage and permit objective training and development not heretofore realized. Consideration of the employee as an individual and the coordination of his welfare and interests with the needs of efficient administration, incentive programs, definite provisions for retirement, progressive health and safety measures designed to protect employees both on and off the job, are just some of the considerations and objectives of Personnel Management in the Forest Service. A more systematic and thoroughly sound and defensible system for the consideration of complaints, and of disciplinary and dismissal cases, is to be developed. Employee representation is another function which will probably be given real thought.

Withal, I was tremendously impressed with the character and quality of leadership which the Chief's office, through the Division of Personnel Management, is assuming in the movement. I hope it is not wishful thinking to say that the welfare of Forest Service employees will be given even more consideration than ever before under the far-reaching and thoroughly democratic approach to the problem. But it is a big job, and it is unfair to expect results coincident with the promulgation of objectives and policies. It will require the cooperation and understanding of every one of us to realize full returns on an ambitious program.

- W.B.I.

## THANKS FOR THE GREETINGS!

I take this belated opportunity to "publicly" thank all of you who so kindly sent me words of cheer during the sinus seige last month. I shall always cherish the many notes and letters you sent me. The trick pants ripper also has its place in my "hope chest."

- W.B.I.

### FEDERAL INSECT PRESERVES?

Federal insect preserves, established every few miles through rural areas of the United States by presidential proclamation and federal troops of caterpillar police to protect bugs now regarded as nuisances were forecast as possibilities of 60 years hence, in a recent address before the Entomological Society of America by Dr. Edith M. Patch of the University of Maine. For years, she said, insects have been regarded as man's chief enemies, since they cause enormous crop losses. Extermination is being conducted on a large scale, with spraying of vast areas with virulent poisons. However efficient in destroying pests, she said, these measures do not discriminate between good and bad insects, with the result that the balance of nature is already seriously upset. Bees perish from the airplane sprays until there are few left to fertilize fruit orchards in some sections. Songbirds already are being starved out of some areas because there are no caterpillars left on which they can feed. If man persists in destroying insects indiscriminately, instead of striking up some sort of partnership with them, she warned, the result will be one of the greatest economic disasters of all time.

She said: "Men may give thanks to the insects for all his fruits, almost all his vegetables and for part of his meat, since much of this comes from land animals not feeding exclusively on wind-pollinated plants, such as the cereals. Most of his clothing is bestowed by insects. Flax and cotton owe their seeds to insect pollen bearers and sheep feed in clover, alfalfa and other legumes pollinated by insects. He is in debt to the insects for such happiness as he derives from the beauty of flowers and from all those birds that depend on insect food for their nestlings. If we proceed to destroy too many insects we shall have almost no crops at all, except such as are pollinated by wind."

- Washington Star

### OUTLOOK BRIGHTER FOR KANSAS

Several factors which caused lower survival of the 1936 plantings appear much more favorable at the beginning of the 1937 season. During the 50 years that the Weather Bureau has kept record in Kansas, 1936 was the driest; the summer was the second hottest the State had ever known; new all-time heat records were established; it was the fifth abnormally dry season since 1930; dust storms really got going in 1936; and the grasshoppers swarmed over the State taking things over as effectually as did the Italians in their Ethiopian campaign. In the Spring of 1936, a hard, dry subsoil was encountered at a depth of from six inches to two feet.

Heavy rains in September started soaking up the soil until at the present time ground moisture is present in ample amounts to a depth of three or four feet. Snow in February and March has kept down dust and supplied moisture; it was so hot in the Fall of 1936 that the grasshoppers laid only a meager supply of eggs for 1937 hatching, at least 50% below normal; all our planting stock came through the winter in excellent condition; when planting started on March 8, trucks and equipment were all ready to go; ground preparation is being given more attention by cooperators; foremen and planters are experienced in planting; foremen, planters, co-operators, and even editors in many cases have "about faced," joined hands in the one idea that the trees must and will grow. Even though Kansas may have occupied the cellar position in 1936 because of her sit-down strike of many factors -- 1937 planting is now under way and the survival percentage bids fair to be high.

- T.R.R.

## KANSAS FOREST SURVEY

A forest survey was made in Kansas in 1936. This work was done jointly by Region 2, the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, and the Prairie States Forestry Project, in cooperation with official State offices.

The report on the survey will be finished in the near future. It will include (1) extent and nature of woodlands, (2) commercial timber and wood production, (3) wood-using industries, (4) growth and yield, (5) growth and cut contrasted, (6), State timber and wood requirements, and (7) suggested State forest policy.

The tree-planting phase will be given special attention by analyzing the data by three State zones, eastern, central, and western. The native timber areas will be discussed under four major cover types: (1) mixed hardwoods, (2) cottonwood, (3) black jack-post oak, (4) brush. These cover types will be in turn classified into sawtimber, cordwood or reproduction stands. Timber volume by species will be given for these various classes.

Production figures were determined by a census of sawmills by counties and from reports by walnut buyers and wood utilization plants. Rural and city fuel wood and post consumption was determined along with the state-wide inventory.

Growth estimates will be based upon a study carried on over the eastern third of the State. Borings were made and classified according to cover type, stand class and site.

Volume will be based upon tables prepared from measurements of stem and branches made of trees at current logging operations. Volume tables, including board foot (Scribner), cubic foot for sawlogs, and cubic foot for top material, were prepared for the following species: red and pine oak, burr oak, black oak, post oak, black walnut, cottonwood, American and red elm, sycamore, hackberry, green and white ash, and hickories.

- E. R. Ware

## ECOLOGIST COMMENTS ON SHELTERBELT

Professor Paul B. Sears of the University of Oklahoma, author of "Deserts on the March," in a review in the magazine Ecology for October 1936, makes this conclusion: "One conclusion seems clear enough, now that Congress has dried up the financial source which fed the Shelterbelt during its brief and meteoric course. Had it been possible to assign the whole problem of land utilization in the grassland area to some group as capable, experienced and as closely integrated as the Forest Service, a valuable plan might have been developed. What the exigencies of politics would have done with it is, of course, another matter."

- Rocky Mountain Bulletin

## TO GET BY

A fellow must be a contortionist to get by these days. He must keep his back to the wall, and at the same time keep his ear to the ground, his shoulder to the wheel, his nose to the grindstone, and withal keep a level head and have both feet on the ground.

- Region 3 "Pioneer"

Elmer W. Luke has applied for a few days' leave to initiate correct training of a new daughter born March 9. Latest reports are that the young lady and her mother are doing well, but we have a hunch that it is Elmer who will get the training.

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Harold Engstrom barged into Oklahoma City March 9, laden with invitations for nursery bids. Blossoming trees and flowers were our best barometer for need of speedy action in securing bids and having nursery leases completed as soon as possible. Consequently, invitations to bid were distributed March 10, to be returned March 17. We hope to be ready to start sowing seed in the nurseries not later than April 1.

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Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt and Don Nelson visited us briefly on March 1, en route to Texas.

\*\*\*\*\*

Junior Foresters Aubrey J. Arthurs and Elvin K. Ferrell are on detail here from Region 2. They are supervising planting operations, and are very welcome additions to our force.

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The personnel of the Oklahoma Unit has enjoyed its association with Lewis and Fae Matthew, and we regret that their detail is terminated.

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Our allotment estimates have AGAIN been prepared and submitted for the five-month period, February 1 to June 30. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Negotiations have now been completed in Oklahoma, and the planting job is getting well under way. Approximately 50 miles have been planted to date (March 10). The method of attack has been to give the program adequate publicity in the localities where plantings were contemplated. This was accomplished through local newspapers, county extension agents, interested farmers, and community meetings. The active program of securing cooperators was then concentrated in the communities showing the greatest interest as indicated by the applications received. The advantages of concentration and continuity of plantings have been pointed out to participating farmers and they have materially assisted in arousing interest and in securing co-operators in their localities.

The most successful procedure has been to give the program adequate publicity and follow up with community meetings. The applications received were then followed up with the individual contacts of examiners in the field. This personal contact with the landowner clears up points of doubt and often crystalizes into action those who would otherwise delay making a decision. The cooperation of interested farmers and the endorsement of the program by county agents also added considerable impetus to the negotiations activity. We have also found that the activity of land examiners and planting and fencing crews in an area is a decided factor in stimulating the landowner's interest in the program.

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The following quotation is taken from the diary of Elmer W. Luke, Nurseryman, who was detailed to Elk City after completing the work at the Noble Nursery:

"I was greatly surprised by the interest and enthusiasm the people out here have for trees."

: SOUTH DAKOTA :

The South Dakota Unit will cooperate in an experimental planting on the farm of E. E. Baruth in Sanborn County this spring. The other parties to this experimental undertaking are the Lake States Station (through its representatives at Huron), the State Extension Service, Mr. Trumbower, County Agent of Sanborn County, and Mr. Baruth, owner of the property.

The location where this experiment will be conducted is a very bad blow area that has been spreading during the past 10 or 15 years. Nearly 15 sections have been almost completely ruined. This formerly was high producing land.

The area to be planted consists of a half section. A mile strip was planted through the middle of these two quarters last year. Additional strips will be planted this spring. The purpose of this work is to determine the frequency of field strips necessary to reduce erosion on bad blow sand to the point where the land can be reclaimed and again made productive.

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While looking over the land on the Baruth farm in Sanborn County on March 2, an interesting observation was made. A strip was planted on blow sand on this property last year. On much of this strip the cottonwoods showed good survival and growth in spite of the 1936 drought. Wind erosion during the fall of 1936 removed possibly three inches of the top soil, exposing many surface roots of these cottonwoods. One root was secured which was partly above and partly just below the surface, which measured 19 feet 7 inches in length. When one realizes that these wildings were planted as 18-inch whips under 1/4 inch in caliper, it is quite remarkable to learn that in one season they would throw out surface roots of this length. Undoubtedly there are surface roots of 24 or 25 feet in length in this one-year-old planting.

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We are cooperating closely with county agents in our land negotiation work which is just getting under way. The county agents in our concentration areas are supplied with our application blanks. They mention our project at their educational meetings, and furnish those interested with these blanks. In this way we expect to secure a great many applications.

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Senior Clerk John D. Hall, who has done outstanding work on this Unit since November 1935, has resigned to accept the position of Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of South Dakota. This is the work he is especially trained for and he has been hoping for such an opportunity for years. We hate to lose Hall, but we are glad that he has received such a substantial promotion. This change is distinctly our loss and the State's gain.

His place will be filled from the Civil Service eligible list and he will stay with us a short time to assist in training the man who will assume his duties.

Land negotiation work in Kansas is moving along in such a manner now that it appears that we will reach the quota of 200 miles by April 1. The negotiation work was a little slow in opening up in February, but by March 1 we were accomplishing about 40 miles of strip each week.

Negotiators generally do not find any outright objections to the tree-planting program that may be considered of a permanent nature. Kansas farmers planted the largest acreage of wheat in the history of the State in the Fall of 1936, amounting to one-third of the total land in the State. The condition of the wheat in the eastern two-thirds is good and subsoil moisture in this section of Kansas is better than it has been for many years. The absence of windstorms and consequent soil blowing, along with the excellent subsoil moisture, have combined to make farmers very optimistic about the wheat harvest. The farmers hesitate to offer wheat land for tree planting this spring under these conditions. This objection is essentially of temporary nature only. Perhaps 30 miles of strip have been held back because of the fence requirement, also.

Objections to the program such as too high a proportion of land devoted to one strip of trees, lease-option contracts, lack of uniform spacing between tree rows, etc., heard so frequently in 1934 and 1935 are no longer factors to deal with. The few 1935 plantings are now getting tall enough to attract attention and are receiving favorable comment. By the end of another growing season there will be so many of these demonstration plantings scattered over the section of the States in which we are working that people will all be conscious of this development in tree planting in the Plains.

The approach to the negotiation campaign improves with each year. As far as this State is concerned, we are getting the negotiation work done far easier than we ever have been able to accomplish in any previous campaigns, in spite of the fact that only a few of our men had had actual negotiation experience previously.

Far greater attention in a future negotiation program would be given to development of individual townships rather than to the development of counties. This approach has been tried in three townships in one county and the response has been so satisfactory that we believe it can be used to advantage in future negotiation work.

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Mr. Lawrence Joris, formerly a member of the Kansas staff and located at Coldwater, Kansas, and more recently a member of Region 2, has returned to assist in the work this spring. He is now giving his full attention to the land negotiation work. His latest report on March 13 reflects his continued optimism. He says: "We now have about 135 miles signed up -- 65 to go. At the present rate of acquisition we should have our quota inside of two weeks, so let's keep on 'hittin' the ball.'"

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The article by Mr. E. L. Perry on the front page of the last issue of PLAINS FORESTER entitled "Land is Life," sets a new standard for literary achievement thus far in the history of this publication. The subject and the clearness of expression lead one to the very heart of true conservation.

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We acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Oswald K. Krogfoss, Junior Forester from Region 8. Mr. Krogfoss formerly served on this Project at Wellington, Texas, being in charge of the work at that point for the Texas Unit.

"Lands" work, which at this time is occupying the attention of most of our field and office personnel, is progressing satisfactorily. Inclement weather and bad roads seriously interfered with the work in some of the counties, but conditions in the field have improved in the past week or two, and applications are being received at a satisfactory rate of speed. Ninety-five applications, representing 61 strip miles or 790 acres have been approved to date. Many more applications have been received but have not as yet been approved. Our tree-planting program is receiving a very favorable response from the farmers and landowners of the State, and we expect to secure applications for our full quota of 250 miles of trees with very little difficulty. We have received some very fine cooperation from the county agents in our concentration areas, and feel that they are due considerable credit for the interest shown in the program. Contrary to expectations, applications for seven-rod strips are outnumbering those for five-rod strips by approximately three to one.

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A field training meeting, presided over by State Director Emerson and Executive Assistant Smith, was held at Broken Bow on February 17. Various problems in connection with "lands" work, planting, replanting, fencing, cultivation, and fiscal matters were discussed, and work plans made. The meeting was attended by Field Officers Marshall, Moffet, Champagne, Neubauer, Eaton, Viehmeyer, Meines, Isaac, and Robinson.

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Welcome additions to our personnel are Jr. Forester C. Arthur Fawcett, Sr. Clerk Harold D. Cramer, Jr. Foreman Harry W. Eaton, and Biological Survey Foreman Weldon Robinson. Mr. Fawcett has been detailed to us from Region 2 to assist in the planting program. Cramer and Eaton have been appointed from the rolls of Civil Service eligibles, and Robinson comes to us from the Bureau of Biological Survey. Jr. District Agent Buell, for several months in charge of rodent-control operations in Nebraska, has been transferred back to his old station at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Robert Isaac, formerly Biological Survey Foreman with headquarters at Orchard, has been promoted to the rank of Agent Foreman, and has been transferred to Kearney to take charge of rodent-control work throughout the State. Nurseryman Meine K. Meines will return to Fremont about March 15 to take charge of the Plumfield Conifer Nursery and central heel-in bed. Mr. Fawcett will take over Mr. Meines' duties as "head man" in the Arnold district.

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To one unacquainted with the circumstances, a glance at some of our recent vouchers might leave the impression that we are going into the garage and retail gasoline business. Such trucks as were in need of it, have been thoroughly overhauled in our Kearney garage, and are now in fine mechanical condition. All cultivation equipment, including tractors, has been checked over and repaired, and will be ready for service when the cultivation season starts. Auxiliary tanks have been installed on practically all our trucks, and gasoline pumps and storage tanks installed in all district headquarters. Perhaps, now that we are equipped to offer a little competition, we can get some of the Regional Office gasoline business about which Kansas so proudly boasts.

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Our congratulations and apologies to Meine K. Meines. Congratulations because of the stork's fifth visit to the Meines' home on January 10, and apologies for our failure to announce the birth of young Mr. Meines in the last issue of PLAINS FORESTER

The North Dakota training meeting was held beginning February 15. The subjects were rather detailed and as a result the meeting was extended to February 25. The four-step training procedure was followed throughout. A total of 21 persons attended the conference at different times, with ten persons in attendance throughout. The subjects taught were heavy subjects but not only provided training in four-step teaching, but at the same time trained the organization on problems which have caused considerable trouble in the past. The lands negotiation subject required two and a half days for the four steps. It was presented by Mr. Charles Pears. Following the presentation all doubtful points were clarified by conference procedure.

The filing procedure topic was handled by Mr. Ralph Deede in a very able manner. It is anticipated that district men will have no difficulty with filing in the future.

The duties of district men on Public Relations was taught by Mr. Cobb. The public relations angle was gone into thoroughly. This has been somewhat of a difficult subject previously. From now on better results in our dealings with the public will be assured.

Other subjects covered were: (a) How to write a letter to meet the Service standards, by T. C. Hutchinson; (b) Cooperation expected from District men on rodent control, by Bjorne O. Wichmann; (c) How to prepare expense accounts, by G. K. Clark; (d) Property accounting, by Harry K. Ebel; (e) Care of property, by L. A. Williams. Sufficient time was not available for the other subjects, but will be covered at a meeting in April.

After the meeting each person in attendance was given 30 minutes to prepare a teaching outline for another "Service" subject. Throughout the meeting interest was high. The four-step method lends itself readily to maintaining interest.

One of the main objects of the meeting was to have each officer learn to prepare training outlines at a moment's notice. Judging from training plans submitted the lesson was well learned.

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To date we have had but one "turn down" from our cooperators with respect to replacement planting. His reason was that it was "too much red tape."

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New negotiations are just starting, with Ralph Deede in charge of LaMoure concentration area, Charles Pears temporarily handling the Devils Lake area, and Gisli Freeman at New Rockford. All roads except number 10 have been blocked for weeks, but the recent chinook is changing things rapidly. Mr. Deede is now located at LaMoure and Mr. Pears and Freeman leave for Devils Lake and New Rockford next week.

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Dave Olson dropped in at Jamestown last Thursday and complained that the weather was cold. Behold! it was the first warm day since last August! We forgive Dave the climatic faux pas however, since he was the bearer of glad tidings in regard to finances, nurseries, and the sinews of war in general. He was a veritable mental "chinook" judging by the pepped-up morale of the organization.

## R. O. GOSSIP

Last year, the proposed Golf Tournament for the famous Paul Bunyan trophy amounted to nothing more than a great deal of conversation, as it was impossible to get the boys together on any specified date due to frequent absences in the field. This year, however, we are determined to fight it out if it takes all summer. Entries are now being accepted, after which handicaps will be established and pairings drawn. Each twosome will arrange its match for the earliest possible date, and play will continue until the first round is completed and half the contestants eliminated, and so on throughout successive rounds. The use of trick clubs will be barred in this tournament, and in place of the weird-looking contraptions resembling soup ladles and long-handled planting shovels, the standard mashie or niblick will be employed in recovery shots from sand traps.

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Robert R. Galligan, Fiscal Auditor, left on March 1 to accept a position with the Soo Line Railroad at Minneapolis, his former home. We hated to see Bob leave our little throng and we wish him the best of success in his new undertaking.

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Elmer F. Hurren is a new addition to the Fiscal auditing staff. While Elmer is new in the Regional Office, he is far from being a stranger, having formerly been with the Nebraska State Office for approximately one year. We've noticed that one of the girls in FC has a finger wave twice a week now. Is an old romance about to be renewed?

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Frank Hausherr, who has been wandering hither and yon for the past few months, returned to his official duties on March 7. We are happy to have Frank back with us and pleased to observe that he appears to be in the pink of condition. In spite of the many rumors to the effect that Frank was all set to take unto himself a helpmeet, it is our duty to report him still among the ranks of the foot-loose and more or less fancy-free.

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Although the bowling team has been consistently "shooting" above its average, that old "debbil" Hard Luck finally caught up with the boys. During the past three weeks the team won but three of nine games. On one occasion a game score of 1017 went for naught, as the opposing team had 1018. These reverses have not ruined that old fighting spirit, however, and we hope to present a more favorable report four weeks hence.

The latest additions to the bowling fraternity are Harold Swim and Elmer Hurren. Harold, who delivers the ball with much gusto, reports that bowling is the only game which will rid one's system of various aches and pains.

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We welcome the return of Charles L. Sweet, Assistant Engineer, to our ranks. He was with the Project for about a year prior to July 1936, and is with us now on detail from Region 2. It's good to see the old-timers again.

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The advent of Don Nelson on detail from Region 2 was hailed with delight, especially by the girls. It seems that they had lined up about half and half on the question as to whether his eyes are blue or brown. Thanks for putting us right, Don. They are blue, and how!

- O.K.B.